MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

February 22,2023

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm. Present were Councilors Mike Matlos, Tim Sloss, Janice Matyasovsky, Chris Ponchak, David Sowa and Michael Zrenchak, Mayor Sikorski, Solicitor Matt Racunas and Engineer Don Glenn. Councilor Elizabeth Lape was not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**AnnMarie Sowa – 2900 Valley Street:**  Mrs. Sowa was following up on the crosswalks. Mr. Sowa stated that we are getting prices for crosswalk signs. Hopefully they will finalize it at the next meeting and we can order some signs and have them posted at both ends of town. Mrs. Sowa asked how they were going to be enforced. Mr. Zrenchak said they will work on the signage first. Once they are in place then they can work on the next step. Mr. Sowa said to see how they are perceived by the residents. Hopefully they see them a little more and they pay attention to everyone around there.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak had nothing to report.

**POLICE, FIRE and EMS:** Michael Zrenchak

Mr. Ponchak read the January 2023 Vehicle Report:

Vehicle 130 909 miles

Vehicle 131 350 miles

Vehicle 132 (unmarked) 262 miles

The 2019 Tahoe had a new horn installed.

Mr. Ponchak read the EMS Report:

They responded to 25 calls this month:

Life Threats 7

Serious 6

Stable-Advance care 3

Stable- Basic care 7

Stand by/assist no treatment 2

Average response time 9.5 minutes

Mr. Ponchak read the Fire Department Report:

Rescue & EMS 2

Hazardous Conditions 2

Service Call 1

Good Intent Call 2

False Alarm & False Call 1

Mr. Ponchak announced that the Fire Department is having a Craft and Vendor Show on March 19th from 10am to 3pm. They will also be having a one day fish fry on April 7th from 11am to 7 pm.

Mr. Zrenchak reported that we have received our new patrol car. The 2012 Tahoe is out of service.

Mr. Zrenchak asked Fire Chief Derr about the train traffic. Chief Derr stated that they are aware of what travels through the borough. Each train car is placard and every train has a manifest with it. They are regulated by the Federal Government so if something happens, they tell them what to do. Their main priority is safety, recognizing what is n the cars, what their action plan is, whether they need to evacuate, in case of fire are they allowed to put water on it. Most of the members, within the last 2 years, have all taken classes with CSX and are thoroughly trained on it. The fire department is well trained if anything should happen. Chief Derr sad that all their computers are updated and they can tell what is in any train car at any point in time.

**LEGISLATION:** David Sowa

Mr. Sowa reported that he is working with the Bight Committee along with Mr. Ponchak to get some more clarity on some of the ordinances.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

Mrs. Matyasovsky stated that the Senior Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Liberty Borough Fire Hall. People need to sign up by March 4th so we know how many people will be there.

Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Manor Field on April 1, 2023.

Mr. Zrenchak stated that they are working on a Spring Clean-up. We want to bring in a couple of dumpsters. We will do some research and come up with a date for that.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak stated that they will be working on the ordinances.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Mr. Matlos had nothing to report.

**FINANCE:** Elizabeth Lape

**Motion to Pay:** Bills for Ratification of $85,259.27 and List of Bills to Pay $17,488.09

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Bills for Ratification:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01/26/2023 | EFT | ADP [CHECKS] | -13,906.30 |
| 01/26/2023 | EFT | ADP | -5,023.85 |
| 02/03/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -96.78 |
| 02/01/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -270.40 |
| 02/10/2023 | EFT | PA SCDU | -82.52 |
| 02/17/2023 | EFT | ADP [INVOICE] | -79.69 |
| 02/08/2023 | 4579 | CARGILL INC | -5,631.50 |
| 02/08/2023 | 4580 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -3,507.81 |
| 02/06/2023 | 12451 | COMMONWEALTH OF PA | -11,162.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 12452 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -234.88 |
| 02/08/2023 | 12453 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -195.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 12454 | PA MUNICIPAL SERVICE CO | -1,027.37 |
| 02/08/2023 | 12455 | PA ONE-CALL SYSTEM INC | -8.19 |
| 01/26/2023 | 23148 | Athletic Field Pros | -6,467.67 |
| 01/26/2023 | 23149 | SLACK OVERHEAD DOORS | -4,780.00 |
| 01/26/2023 | 23150 | Superior Equipment and Supply | -2,990.74 |
| 01/26/2023 | 23151 | Swede Construction Corp | -15,165.00 |
| 02/06/2023 | 23152 | AFLAC | -223.36 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23153 | AMERICAN LEGAL SERVICES | -50.68 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23154 | DERKAS AUTO SERVICE | -133.02 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23155 | DUQUESNE LIGHT CO | -480.48 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23156 | FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK (CREDIT CARD) | -549.53 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23157 | GENERAL CODE | -995.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23158 | GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOC | -3,621.50 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23159 | HOME DEPOT | -26.91 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23160 | KUSH KUSTOMS | -1,901.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23161 | MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT | -75.25 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23162 | ONE DIGITAL | -40.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23163 | PA Turnpike | -4.40 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23164 | PEOPLES NATURAL GAS | -958.62 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23165 | RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC | -1,500.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23166 | Safsecur LLC | -808.34 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23167 | STEEL RIVERS COG | -2,348.31 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23168 | T-MOBILE | -175.83 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23169 | VERIZON GARAGE | -57.44 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23170 | WESTCOM WIRELESS INC | -55.00 |
| 02/08/2023 | 23171 | Witmer Public Safety Group | -604.90 |
| 02/15/2023 | 23172 | Joseph Como | -20.00 |
|  |  |  | -85,259.27 |

**List of Bills to Pay:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/09/2023 | 17594925 | 3,886.00 |
|  | Total AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA |  |  | 3,886.00 |
|  | **CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 01/31/2023 | 013123 | 38.21 |
|  | Total CENTER INDEPENDENT ENERGY |  |  | 38.21 |
|  | **COMCAST** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/03/2023 | 8993209080009060 | 387.45 |
|  | Total COMCAST |  |  | 387.45 |
|  | **DERKAS AUTO SERVICE** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/10/2023 | 22310 | 30.30 |
|  | Total DERKAS AUTO SERVICE |  |  | 30.30 |
|  | **FLYNN'S TIRE** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/10/2023 | 1275267 | 147.14 |
|  | Total FLYNN'S TIRE |  |  | 147.14 |
|  | **NATW** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 01/07/2023 | 17803 | 35.00 |
|  | Total NATW |  |  | 35.00 |
|  | **O'REILLY AUTO PARTS** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/08/2023 | 5219-216185 | 54.44 |
|  |  | 02/13/2023 | 5219-216464 | 70.46 |
|  | Total O'REILLY AUTO PARTS |  |  | 124.90 |
|  | **ONE DIGITAL** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 01/13/2023 | 10205-000114 ver. 1 | 40.00 |
|  |  | 02/18/2023 | 4696 / 9866 | 4,904.62 |
|  | Total ONE DIGITAL |  |  | 4,944.62 |
|  | **ORKIN EXTERMINATING** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/09/2023 | 235506712 | 207.92 |
|  | Total ORKIN EXTERMINATING |  |  | 207.92 |
|  | **PA AMERICAN WATER** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/06/2023 | 1024-210032153289 | 1,163.42 |
|  | Total PA AMERICAN WATER |  |  | 1,163.42 |
|  | **RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 01/01/2023 | 1628 | 1,041.00 |
|  | Total RACUNAS LAW GROUP LLC |  |  | 1,041.00 |
|  | **RICOH USA** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/13/2023 | 106958801 | 149.42 |
|  | Total RICOH USA |  |  | 149.42 |
|  | **STEEL RIVERS COG** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/09/2023 | 23-1094 | 22.67 |
|  | Total STEEL RIVERS COG |  |  | 22.67 |
|  | **UPMC HEALTH PLAN** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/09/2023 | ML0000324597 | 5,197.60 |
|  | Total UPMC HEALTH PLAN |  |  | 5,197.60 |
|  | **VERIZON GARAGE** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/09/2023 | 450-731-927-0001-53 | 57.44 |
|  | Total VERIZON GARAGE |  |  | 57.44 |
|  | **WESTCOM WIRELESS INC** |  |  |  |
|  |  | 02/14/2023 | 1190 | 55.00 |
|  | Total WESTCOM WIRELESS INC |  |  | 55.00 |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  | **17,488.09** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

Mr. Sloss thanked Mr. Wall for all of his years of service. He said that he will be hard to replace.

**Motion to accept** William Wall’s verbal resignation on January 25, 2023.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky**

**Mr. Zrenchak voted NO.**

**Vote was 6 YES 1 NO. Motion carries.**

**Motion to ratify** the hiring of Aaron Artz on February 3, 2023 as a part-time police officer for the Borough of Liberty.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

**All in favor. Motion carries**

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

**Motion to adopt** Ordinance 2023-01 raising the sewage rate to $17.50 per 1,000 gallons.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sowa**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Larry Sikorski, Mayor

Mayor Sikorski read the Police Report:

16 Traffic stops

3 Assaults

3 Domestic Disturbances

1 Gun Threat

1 Shots Fired

16 Assists to other Police Departments

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Matt Racunas

Solicitor Racunas stated he has no actions items this evening.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Don Glenn

Mr. Zrenchak gave the update on the Old School Demolition. He stated that as everyone was aware, we had a little issue with the school coming down. There were some permitting issues with the Allegheny County Health Department. We had a meeting today with the Health Department and worked through those issues. Tomorrow, the contractor will drop off a check for the permit, the permit will be processed and the tentative start date for the demolition is April 1st. There were some staffing changing at the County and some emails were in the accounts of people who were no longer there. It just took getting things/information to the right place. Mr. Glenn stated that they will turn over structural reports to COG tomorrow.

Mr. Glenn reported that the LSA grants have not been announced yet. He said that as soon as he hears anything he will let the Borough Secretary know.

Mr. Glenn asked Council to give some thought to the GTRP Grant application that is due May 31st. It is geared towards recreation so if there is anything they want him to apply for, he would be happy to do that.

Mr. Glenn asked Council to give some thought regarding the Intermodal grant application for Liberty Way.

Mr. Glenn said he has an invoice from Swede Construction in the amount of $32,117.50. He explained that this is the next to the last invoice. It concerns interior walls, interior plumbing, interior water pipping, doors, fan/light combo, ADA signage, and exterior fountains and it reduces the retainage from 10% to 5%. That leaves about $12, 500 to finish that job. He performed an inspection today, and all the work on the invoice has been completed. Mr. Zrenchak met with Mr. Glenn and the contractor today and the project is about 85% done. They were waiting for the partitions for the bathrooms. The project should wrap up in about 2 weeks.

**Motion to pay** Swede Construction $32,117.50 pending Glenn Engineering’s review/report of the pay request application and his letter saying that the work is satisfactory.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Motion to appoint** Amanda Rausch to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak explained that in November, we had a main line lateral issue where the liner slid and blocked the lateral at 3415 Liberty Way. It had to be cut out. The amount to be reimbursed is $3,450.

**Motion to reimburse** Donald Barkley of 3415 Liberty Way $3,450.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Council is asking for Letters of Interest for the Zoning Board (1 Seats).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Zrenchak reminded council that the ALOM Spring Educational Conference in Seven Springs is April 13-16,2023. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Jamie or Jill know.

Mr. Zrenchak explained that Penn State Justice and Safety Institute has a Grant Writing Class April 10 - 12 in the amount of $499.00. Sergeant Mayernik has expressed an interest in attending this class. It is for grant writing for Police Departments. They will ask what is on the top of your wish-list and they will help you write a grant for that particular item.

**Motion to authorize** Sergeant Mayernik to attend the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute Grant Writing Class.

**Motion: Mr. Ponchak Second: Mr. Sloss**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the January 25, 2022 meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

Mr. Zrenchak reported that there is a program through the Steel Rivers Council of Governments. It is a whole home repair grant program that is supposed to open in the Spring of 2023 with a local allocation of over $10 million. Repairs can include roofs, sidewalks, windows, insulation, structural repairs, and any modifications that improves the safety and health of the occupant. In order to qualify, you must be a homeowner and whose income falls below 80% of the median income for Allegheny County. The information is on our website, Saavy Citizen, and Facebook. It is most likely that it is a first come first serve basis so it is best to apply early.

Next meeting dates/times: Work Session, Wednesday March 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm – Regular Session, Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

**Motion** to adjourn

Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Matyasovsky

All in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Pack

Borough Secretary.